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INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMANITIES

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1991

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(As of December 1991)

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A STUDY OF "MANCHUKUO"

(coordinated by Professor YAMAMOTO, Y., April 1987~March 1992)

"Manchuria" (presently Three North-East Provinces of China) was a main part of the Japanese Colonial Empire before the World War II. The aim of this seminar is to get a comprehensive understanding (namely of political, economic and cultural aspects) of Japanese colonial rule of this area with special reference to the "Manchukuo" Period (1932-1945), from the viewpoint of Japanese colonial studies as well as of Chinese regional studies.

A HISTORICAL STUDY OF IDEAS OF ASIAN IN MODERN JAPAN

(coordinated by Professor FURUYA, T., April 1988~March 1992)

It was during the last quarter of the nineteenth century that the word 'Asia' became popular among many Japanese. In most cases, however, people who used the word had little concrete or coherent knowledge of Asian countries.

This seminar aims at clarifying this interesting but hitherto not well studied aspect of the history

of modern Japan by examining the following three points: 1) the way in which information about Asian countries reached Japan; 2) Japanese modes of expectation from, or activities in, these countries; 3) the growth among the Japanese of the notion of 'Japan's Burden, or National Duty' which was encouraged by certain ideas of 'Asia'.

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF KAIBARA EKIEN (1630-1714) AND HIS TIME (coordinated by Associate Professor YOKOYAMA, T., April 1988~March 1992)

The aim of this weekly seminar is to attain a comprehensive view of various characteristics of 17th-and-18th-century Japanese society, which has hitherto often been regarded merely as a period of transition from the medieval time to the modern. Our method will be to undertake an interdisciplinary analysis of the writings of Kaibara Ekiken, an active thinker of the time. This method will be adopted because of the unusual broadness of Kaibara's social concerns. In each seminar, scholars ranging in fields from Japanese, Chinese and European studies to the sciences such as psychology, botany and medicine, will discuss the characteristics of the time which were reflected in Kaibara's works.

STUDIES IN THE PERIOD OF THE MEIJI RESTORATION (coordinated by Professor SASAKI, S., April 1988~March 1992)

The theme of this seminar is to explicate the real meaning of the Meiji Restoration in the cultural and social development of the 19th century. For this task, 1) the examination and criticism of existing research from the 1960s onwards and 2) the classification and analysis of newly found materials of history are required. Upon these analyses the new image of the Meiji Restoration can be reconstructed.

LESSONS FROM LITERATURE (coordinated by professor ASUKAI, M., April 1989~March 1992)

The participants in this research project are mainly researchers in Japanese literature, but include also researchers in the literature of other countries ranging from Britain, America, France, Russia and Germany to Asian nations such as Burma and India.

Initially, no single theme was identified, but participants made contributions to various different problems concerning literature. However, after two years' work, such issues as "modernization in literature", "romanticism" and "language and style" are emerging as major themes.

In the monthly reading sessions, the subject has been Motoori Norinaga's *Shibun yoryo* (The Essentials of Murasaki's *Genji*). It is shortly planned to treat the translated works of the Meiji period.

BASIC BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON LEADING POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY (coordinated by Associate Professor FUJII, J., April 1990~March 1993)

The aim of this project is to gather comprehensive information relating to the activities and whereabouts at any one time of men who performed important political roles in the first century of the early modern period in Japan. This information will then become the shared property of researchers. Research will be based on analysis of the vast and rich correspondence of the political figures extant from this period. The aim is to depict seventeenth-century history from a fresh perspective, through documenting the activities of important figures of the time.

RESEARCH ON CHINA IN THE 1920'S

(coordinated by Professor HAZAMA, N., April 1988~March 1993)

For the past fifteen years the research group has been working on three major themes of modern Chinese history. From 1973 to 1978 we studied "The May Fourth Movement Period", from 1978 to 1983 the topic was "Culture and Society in Early Republican China", and from 1983 to 1988 the topic was "The National Revolution". During the period of the last research project, we studied problems covering the period from the May Fourth Movement to the Anti-Japanese War.

In April 1988 we started a new five year research project dealing with "China in the 1920's". On the basis of the results of the last research project we decided to take a closer look at Chinese Society in the 1920's, studying its different political, economic, and cultural aspects.

STUDY OF "LI" SYSTEM IN ANCIENT CHINA

(coordinated by Professor KOMINAMI, I., April 1989~March 1994)

The "li" system was one of the most fundamental elements in Chinese culture in the past. It emanated from the religious ideas and social customs in ancient China and came to be systematized in pre-Qin and Han dynasty periods. It had a big effect on the daily life of Chinese people from that time until the recent Chinese revolution. In our research seminar, we have been undertaking translation and annotation of the "Zhou li" (one of the Three Canons of Li), thereby intending to clarify the characteristic feature of the "li" system in Chinese culture.

METHODS AND MATERIALS OF THE HISTORY OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE

(coordinated by Associate Professor TAKATA, T., April 1990~March 1993)

This seminar is arranged in order to provide a solid basis for the future compilation of the history of the Chinese language. For this task, not only materials from various written documents which range from the most ancient times down to recent days, but also those from dialectal studies will be taken up for discussion. In addition, special attention will be paid to methodological refinements of the historical study of the Chinese language.

A STUDY ON ART OF THE SIX DYNASTIES

(coordinated by Associate Professor SOFUKAWA, H., April 1990~March 1995)

The aim of our research seminar is to form a correct and up-to-date image of the Six Dynasties art from the third to the sixth century. We will analyze these arts according to three fields, 1) vast archaeological materials unearthed since the communist revolution, 2) Buddhist grotto temples such as Yungang and Longmen, 3) the aesthetic theory in painting and calligraphy.

THE LIFE OF CHINESE LITERATI

(coordinated by Professor ARAI, K., April 1991~March 1993)

The object of this study is the so-called '*bunjin shumi*' in China. '*Bunjin shumi*' means the taste which the Chinese literati have considered the best as a private life style. Our study is not confined to a period but to the area Jiang-nan, the cultural centre in old times. The main theme of the study is *Zunsheng bajian* by Gao Lian (Ming dynasty).

SOCIETY AND CULTURE IN LATE MING AND EARLY CHING PERIODS

(coordinated by Professor ONO, K., April 1991~March 1995)

During 17th century, China experienced dynamic changes in its social structure, economy, ideology and culture. The Ching dynasty which had taken over the Ming dynasty, restructured those changes and established the base for the new rule of the nation for 260 years. The purpose of our study is to capture the changing phases of the period in various aspects along with methodological examinations. The study group meets every week for text reading and individual research reports. The texts include biographies of representative figures of the time in different fields.

INDIA AND CENTRAL ASIA ACCORDING TO BUDDHIST PILGRIMS: A STUDY OF THE *FAXIANZHUAN*, OR FAXIAN'S TRAVELS IN SOUTH ASIA

(Organized by Professor KUWAYAMA, Sh., April 1991~March 1996)

The project inaugurated in 1983 has aimed at shedding fresh lights of modern disciplines on various classical records of Buddhist pilgrims and their biographers in order to gain historical information on Central Asia and India. A study of Huichao's *Accounts on Five Indic Regions* being thus culminated in having a Japanese version published with detailed annotations in 1991, the *Faxianzhuan* has become a new target of critical elucidation. The bi-weekly meeting on Monday afternoon is expected to reach a better understanding of Buddhist India in the fifth century with the outlook of history, geography, language, and religion.

STUDY ON THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY IN CHINA

(coordinated by Associate Professor TANAKA, Tan, April 1991~March 1996)

The aim of this weekly seminar is to clarify the characteristics of the several fields of the traditional technology in China, in particular the fields related with the usual life and domestic sciences. Our immediate plans are to read and give the Japanese translation of two different kinds of texts on agriculture and horticulture; the main text for the general interests is *Neng Shu* (Agricultural Treatise) written by Wang Zhen in 1332 of Yuan dynasty, the subsidiary one for the specific interests is *Zhejiang Lu* (Collected Biographies of Mastercraftsmen) edited by Liang Qi-Xiong in 1933. As well as the philological works, we also plan for the members to give their lectures on the various subjects on the history of technology in China.

MATERIAL CULTURE OF MEDIEVAL CHINA

(coordinated by Professor TONAMI, M., April 1991~March 1996)

In a continued series, this seminar also covers the period from the third century B.C. to the tenth century A.D. and will examine both transmitted and newly excavated materials, including inscriptions, manuscripts, paintings, and other artifacts.

Recently publications of archaeological reports have grown too much to digest. We cannot study Chinese social history, in the broader sense, without making use of these materials appropriately. We seek to dig into the culture of medieval China on the basis of the achievement of our previous series of studies.

LAW IN PRE-MODERN CHINA

(coordinated by Professor UMEHARA, K., April 1991~March 1996)

In this session, we shall examine the legal system of the pre-modern China, which is most

important for understanding the society and culture of this period. We take up, as a first step, the *Tongdian* by Duyou of the Tang dynasty and have been reading its section on criminal law for getting a general outline of the ancient law code history. Further we shall pay attention to the newly discovered materials such as the wooden and bamboo strips in order to supplement our study.

RESEARCH INTO THE DAOISM OF THE SIX DYNASTIES II

(coordinated by Professor YOSHIKAWA, T., April 1991~March 1996)

The *Zhengao* by Tao Hongjing of the Liang dynasty is a compilation dealing with the various divinities of Daoism. In our research seminar we propose to undertake a complete translation and annotation of the *Zhengao*, thereby illuminating the situation of Daoism in the Six Dynasties period.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE FOR COMPILATION OF *THE ANNUAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ORIENTAL STUDIES*

(coordinated by Associate Professor KATSUMURA, T.)

The committee, which is composed of both scholars and librarians for the annual publication of the bibliography of oriental studies, meets regularly at the Documentation Center for Oriental Studies. More than thirty volumes have already appeared under the editorship of the committee. All the oriental studies written in Japanese, Chinese and Korean are catalogued by the committee members. To prevent omission of any important literature, the principle has been adopted that all the books and articles written in foreign languages other than Chinese and Korean should be catalogued if they are reviewed or referred to in any journals.

FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD IN COMPARATIVE HISTORY

(coordinated by Professor MAEKAWA, K., April 1989~March 1992)

A comparative study is made on the family and the household in pre-industrial societies of Europe, China, Japan and Western Asia. Our study group contains historians, anthropologists, sociologists and specialists in the history of ideas. Topics treated are as follows: family reconstruction, life-cycle patterns, population change, patterns of property inheritance, lineage formation of medieval noble families, and popular attitudes towards the family and the household in early modern societies.

We regard recent anthropological and sociological studies on the family, the household and the kinship structure as highly stimulative to the field of social history. Historians of a traditional discipline have regarded the family and the household in pre-industrial societies as immovable and static, and therefore have treated them rather lightly. Since the family and the household always functioned as basic units in the integration of any pre-industrial society, however, they deserve to be studied most seriously by social historians. Private documents such as family archives and diaries, which have often been left unutilized by scholars of previous generations, are important source materials for our study.

A STUDY OF LEGAL THINKING

(coordinated by Professor YAMASHITA, M., April 1989~March 1992)

Though it is often said that the development of logic in the twentieth century is splendid, it can be confined only to the domain of ontic logic. While ontic logic has been highly elaborated, the other domain of logic, that is, deontic logic has been left totally undeveloped to the present day.

Our seminar then aims to adjust the balance in this situation by trying 1) to establish deontic logic, i.e. the logic of oughtness, 2) to analyse the legal thinking of jurists and 3) to investigate the

moral or ethical code of ordinary life. This joint study brings together specialists in such fields as logic, jurisprudence and ethics.

VIOLENCE IN RELIGIOUS CONTEXTS

(coordinated by Associate Professor TANAKA, M., April 1990~March 1993)

This project aims to analyse various aspects of violence, symbolic or actual, especially in relation to religious beliefs and rituals. Although violence is an important theme in social science, there seem to have been few systematic attempts to understand it. Here we deal with violence mainly in the following two aspects: first, theoretical arguments on the function and meaning of violence in the formation of human society; secondly, cross-cultural studies on the ideas of violence and its forms and meanings in religious contexts.

KNOWLEDGE AS SOCIAL ORDER: STUDIES ON THE FORMATION OF ELITE CLASSES IN 19TH CENTURY EUROPE

(coordinated by Professor SAKAGAMI, T., April 1990~March 1994)

Around 1800, European countries underwent profound changes, not only in politics and economy but also in culture and social structure. New kinds of knowledge, especially scientific knowledge, had great influence upon reconstructing social orders. This transformation of society also produced new elite classes: technocrats, university radicals, engineers, and every kind of expert in the sciences, who participated in the reconstruction of the social order with their scientific knowledge. This research project aims to clarify the relationship between knowledge and the social order by investigating the formation of the new elite classes in 19th century Europe. Special emphasis will be laid on the reconstruction of national higher education, which played a central part in the formation of the elites.

SIGN, SENSE, AND LITERATURE—IN SEARCH OF NEW HORIZONS FOR LITERARY THEORY

(coordinated by Associate Professor OURA, Y., April 1991~March 1994)

What is literature? This question, which has been posed time and again since Aristotle, will be at the center of our concern, though we must be conscious of modern developments in the theoretical approach to literature, being especially aware of recent semiotical and structural methodologies. To apprehend literature where it interfaces with other disciplines (linguistics, sociology, psychology, etc.) will be our object.

COMMUNICATION IN NATURAL SETTINGS

(coordinated by Professor TANI, Y., April 1991~March 1994)

Studies in communication, especially in verbal communication, have been based on the ideas that human talk is linearly constructed as written text is, that each turn in a series of talks is attributed to a single speaker, and that the time structure of verbal communication is linear and even. The main objective of our joint study is to collect and analyse types of communication phenomena which could not be fully understood from the view of verbal communication referred to above, and further, to make a theory of communication and/or social interaction in general which would not be based upon the language-centered idea. Our research group consists of ethnographers, anthropologists, sociologists, ethologists, and primatologists. In the first year, we tried to critically review the works on communication by E. Goffman, G. Bateson and others. In the second year, we will analyse video-documents of conversational interaction in everyday life.

ANATOMY OF HUMANITIES

(coordinated by Professor YAMADA, K., April 1991~March 1994)

Studies in Humanities seem to have been at the turning point in recent years, due, on the one hand, to the increasing tendency of specialization and segmentation observed in each field, and, on the other, to the serious doubts put to the overall "grand theories". With this situation in view, our project aims at constructing a new intellectual paradigm, looking for a new methodology for the study of Humanities. In our seminar, we will take up the classical works in the fields of Humanities and reexamine their various aspects which may open our way to the intellectual innovation.

LAW AND SOCIETY IN CLASSICAL INDIA

(coordinated by IKARI, Y., Professor, April 1991~March 1995)

"*Dharma*" (righteousness) is one of the most important key concepts for understanding the civilization of India. The word "*dharmā*" is usually translated as "law", but it does not exhaust the topic. Far beyond the scope of legal or jurisprudential aspect, it has exerted great influence on the idiom of norm-expression in the broad spheres of social and cultural tradition through the ages of both the classical and the modern India. The *Dharmasūtras* and the *Dharmaśāstras* belong to the genre of literature which treat of "*dharmā*" in its various topics. In our seminar, the focus has been set on the formation period of the classical Indian *dharmā* literature and our standpoint is to see the *dharmā*-literature rather as the mirror of Hindu cultural traditions, than as the legal literature in its limited aspect. We have taken up the *Yājñavalkya-smṛti*, one of the oldest *Dharmaśāstras*, and have been examining the contents and structure of this text through the joint cooperation of the scholars who are the experts of various fields of Indology. Through the analysis of the *dharmā* literature, we try to shed the light on the aspects of the formation period of the Hindu civilization which have not been fully investigated.